

Register of Old Buildings
Macon County Historical Coordinating Council

Address: 567 S. Webster St.

Date of original construction: *1865 or thereabouts.

Name of original owner: Frank Meyer.

History: In an interview January 15, 1974 with Miss Irene Smith who was born in the house at 567 S. Webster, she stated that:

* - her mother, Mrs. Lena Kossieck Smith, was born in the house on September 15, 1869.

* - her grandfather, Wm. Kossieck, moved into the house when he bought it, which according to the Recorder of Deeds Office was on November 11, 1867; however, he did not build the house, hence the estimate above that it may have been built about 1865.

The house, like many houses in this predominately German section of the city during the 1860's and 1870's, was remembered as:

- a house of brick, exterior and interior walls.
- set close to the street.
- four rooms on the first floor of the house, which is situated on the northwest corner of S. Webster and E. Lawrence, facing east (Webster).
 - along the north, two bedrooms,
 - a front one on the east.
 - a back one on the west.
 - along the south (Lawrence Street side)
 - a sitting room on the front. (east)
 - a kitchen on the west.
- in the kitchen a ladder to an opening to the partially furnished attic where during some seasons of the year it was possible for some one to sleep in the small bed located there.
 - a pump outside the kitchen door to provide well water.
 - a summer kitchen, still standing, beyond the pump, and not far from the kitchen door.
 - a small, wood stove in the summer kitchen to heat water for washing clothes and for doing some cooking.
 - hooks for hanging cured meats; however, no meat was cured at home.
 - shelves for storing home-canned foods. Miss Smith recalls a heating stove in the sitting room and a cook stove in the kitchen as providing heat for the four rooms. She also recalls the need for heating a flat iron to take to bed in the chilly bedrooms.

She has not been in the house for many years, but believes that few changes have occurred. This she knows is true of the exterior.

Interview - Charlotte Meyer
January 15, 1974

Present owner's name: Mrs. Anna B. Reynolds
567 S. Webster 428-0244

Data from Decatur City Directories:

- 1871-72 - Kossiak, Wm., laborer, S. Webster.
- 1874-75 - Kossick, Wm., laborer, 567 S. Webster.
- 1875-76 - Kossick, Wm., teamster, Elwood & Co., 567 S. Webster.
- 1880-81 - 1884, 1895, Kossieck, Wm. F. and Mary, res. 567 S. Webster.
- 1901 - Kossieck, Wm. and Edward Lena H. Smith, 567 S. Webster.
- 1907 - Not listed under Kossieck.
- 1915 - John M. and Harriet Burns.
- 1920 - Oattie C. Denkens.
- 1973 - Reynolds, Mrs. Anna B. (O)

From the Macon County Assessor's Office:

Description of property:

Resurvey of Lot 4 El/2.S.W. 1/4

Sec. 14-16 - 2E

The Assessor's office estimates (and the stress that it is only an estimate) that the house was built in 1895.

From the Macon County Recorder's Office:

- Frank Meyer to Wm. Kossick - November 11, 1867.
- Wm. Kossick to Fred W. Kossieck October 18, 1900.
- Fred Kossieck to Augusta Kramer - date not given.
- Augusta Kramer to Lena H. Smith - August 7, 1906.
- Lena H. Smith to Hattie Burns - September 11, 1912.
- Hattie Burns to Charles Whitney - December 4, 1919.
- Charles Whitney to Henry W. Rosback - February 24, 1920.
- Henry W. Rosback to Mrs. Anna B. Reynolds - May, 1946.



567 South Webster



Photos, Margaret M. Meyer, April, 1974

This house was chosen as representative of the small, brick homes built in the 1860's by German immigrants who located in the near south-east side of Decatur. This one seems most true to its original condition. It will be noted that the summer kitchen still stands.

Pictures taken by Margaret Meyer
April 29th, 1974.